

**REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the present amendment. By this amendment, claims 8, 11, 26, and 29 are amended, and claims 7, 25, and 34 are canceled. Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 15, 16, 18-21, 23, 24, and 33 are allowed.

Claims 8 and 11 are amended to depend from claim 1. Claims 8-12 and 14, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, are allowable as depending from an allowable claim and also for the specific limitations recited therein. Claims 26 and 29 are amended to depend from claim 15. Claims 26-30 and 32, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 15, are allowable as depending from an allowable claim and also for the specific limitations recited therein.

Claims 4 and 22 were withdrawn in connection with an election requirement mailed on June 22, 2004. Applicants note that claims 1 and 19 are allowable. Withdrawn claims 4 and 22 depend from allowable claims 1 and 19. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of claims 4 and 22 in accordance with 37 CFR 1.141.

The present amendment was not earlier presented because the applicant believed that the application was in a condition for allowance. The present amendment does not raise any new issues or require any further searching on the part of the

Examiner. The present amendment merely amends claims 8 and 11 to depend from allowable claim 1 and amends claims 26 and 29 to depend from allowable claim 15. The present amendment places the application in a condition for allowance and is believed to be clearly appropriate.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified patent application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the above-identified patent application is respectfully requested.

Serial No. 10/650,237

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in  
the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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